

*Amendments to the Specification:*

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 21-31 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Dorsal root ganglion tissue has a rich concentration of glutamate receptors of at least three types of ionic receptors. By infusing glutamate subtype agonists (kainic acid,  $\alpha$ -amino-3-hydroxy, 5-methyl, 4-isoxazolepropionate (AMPA), N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA), and metabotropic receptors, and measuring the extent of dorsal horn receptor expression by immunohistochemistry of glutamate receptors, and by performing von Frey fiber behavioral tests, a profile of receptor activity related to the presence of disc glutamate in the epidural space is obtained. Antagonists of both ionic and metabotropic receptors are available (NMDA receptors: MK-801; AMPA receptors: NBQX; kainate: LY382884 and ACEA-1011; and metabotropic receptors [(L(+)-2-amino, 3-phosphonopropionic acid (LAP-3)] (L(+)-2-amino-3-phosphonopropionic acid (L-AP3), and (S)4-carboxy, 3-hydroxyphenyl glycine (CHPG)). These antagonists are infused with epidural glutamate to determine whether nociception is reversible by receptor antagonism.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 13-20 with the following amended paragraph:

--Implantation of an epidural Alzet miniosmotic pump for epidural infusion and placement of foraminal stents

Female Sprague-Dawley rats, 300 to 500 grams, are epidurally and unilaterally infused with glutamate in the L5/S1 level for 72 hours via a subcutaneously implanted Alzet miniosmotic pump in concentrations of 0.002, 0.02, 0.2, or 2 mM. This range is chosen because human herniated disc material has an average glutamate concentration of 0.18 mM, and baseline concentrations of glutamate in the epidural space are lower than micromolar concentrations.--